



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Charles D. Baker
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SMILE Mass Donates Floating Beach Wheelchairs to DCR Beaches *'Mobi-Chairs' Will Increase Beach Accessibility to those with Disabilities*

South Boston – Monday, June 29, 2015 – Today, during a ceremony at Carson Beach, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Carol Sanchez received a donation of several beach wheelchairs provided by nonprofit organization SMILE Mass, which will ensure state owned beaches remain accessible to people of all abilities. SMILE Mass (Small Miracles in Life Exist) donated five beach wheelchairs, also known as Mobi-chairs, to be deployed at Carson Beach, Spectacle Island Beach, Nantasket Beach in Hull, Revere Beach, and Nahant Beach.

"The Department of Conservation and Recreation thanks and appreciates SMILE Mass for their generous donation of five floating beach wheelchairs that are arriving just in time for the summer season," **said DCR Commissioner Carol Sanchez**. "The Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to providing universal access of the state's beaches, parks and forests to visitors of all abilities."

During this morning's donation ceremony, Commissioner Sanchez joined with DCR Universal Access Program Director Tom McCarthy to receive the Mobi-chairs from Lotte Diomedede, President of SMILE Mass. The new beach wheelchairs will provide visitors with physical disabilities with increased mobility on the sand while also being able to float in the water.

"With our beautiful coast line, Massachusetts beaches are a treasure that deserve to be enjoyed by all of our residents," **said Senator Linda Dorcena Forry**. "Thanks to SMILE Massachusetts and the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, families living with children or adults with disabilities will now be able to enjoy a beautiful, safe day on their local beaches."

"I would like to thank SMILE Mass for donating floating wheelchairs for use at DCR beaches," **said Rep. Nick Collins**. "These wheelchairs will allow all people to enjoy our state's beaches and natural resources."

SMILE Mass was founded in 2009 to provide happy, healthy memories to families living with children or adults with disabilities. The non-profit organization seeks to provide accessible equipment for all.

"SMILE Mass is proud to partner with the Department of Conservation and Recreation in our shared goal of universal access for people of all abilities," **said SMILE Mass President Lotte Diomedede**. "These chairs will break down barriers at the beaches where they are deployed and allow everyone to enjoy the beaches and waterfronts DCR offers."

To learn more about DCR's Universal Access Program please visit the program's [webpage](#) or call (413) 545-5353.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Carol Sanchez, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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